

SUBJECT

cc OPS
MASTER



T 57/84

PRIME MINISTER'S
PERSONAL MESSAGE

PRIME MINISTER

CANBERRA

SERIAL No. T 57/84

11 APR 1984

Dean Meyer

You will be aware from your Government's membership and participation in the work of the South Pacific Commission, and that of your Pacific territory, that the question of the most appropriate form of South Pacific regional organisations has been under consideration for some time. Australia has followed the issue closely as a member of the South Pacific Commission and of the South Pacific Forum, the organisation which comprises the Heads of Government of the independent and self-governing countries of the South Pacific.

At the Fourteenth South Pacific Forum meeting in Canberra last August a resolution was passed calling for investigation of the concept of a Single Regional Organisation, in the expectation that such a body would be more cost effective in the long term than existing arrangements. Member countries were agreed that greater emphasis should be given to establishing in the region a new and lasting relationship among developed and developing countries and territories to promote regional development. The terms of the resolution specifically recognised the desirability of ensuring the continued participation of those developed countries, including those outside the region, who have to date played an important role in assisting regional development, on the basis of mutual respect and constructive partnership among the Forum countries, the island territories and the metropolitan countries.

To undertake consideration of the political, legal, constitutional and financial implications of a Single Regional Organisation, the Forum decided to appoint a Committee of Ministers of Foreign Affairs from four member countries. It was intended that this committee

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should undertake consultations with concerned parties, including the Governments of France, the United States and the United Kingdom, to inform them of the Forum's views and to ascertain their views on participation in a Single Regional Organisation. In my current capacity as Chairman of the Forum, I was requested to convey to your Government the Forum's decision and the wish of the Committee of Ministers of Foreign Affairs to undertake consultations with your Government.

I am advised that the four-nation ministerial committee, composed of the Ministers of Foreign Affairs of Fiji, New Zealand, Papua New Guinea and Tonga, has begun its work of considering the issues entailed in a Single Regional Organisation. The first meeting, which was held in Port Moresby from 19-20 March, passed very successfully and will be followed by a further meeting scheduled for Wellington on 9-10 April. Apart from informing you of these developments, it is my hope as Chairman of the Forum that your Government will be agreeable to receiving the Committee of Ministers of Foreign Affairs for consultations, as well as facilitating visits by the Committee to your Pacific territory in connection with its mission.

Yours sincerely

Bolt

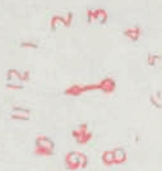
The Rt Hon. Margaret Thatcher, MP
Prime Minister of Great Britain
LONDON SW1
UNITED KINGDOM

Foreign Policy

July 80

South Pacific Forum

17 APR 1984



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cc Master
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AUSTRALIAN HIGH COMMISSION

AUSTRALIA HOUSE
STRAND
LONDON WC2B 4LA
01-438 8000

SUBJECT

THE HIGH COMMISSIONER

PRIME MINISTER

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PERSONAL MESSAGE

10 April 1984

SERIAL No. TS 7/84

Dear Prime Minister,

Mr Hawke has asked me to pass to you the following text of a letter concerning the question of the most appropriate form of South Pacific regional organisations:

Begins:

Dear Prime Minister,

You will be aware from your Government's membership and participation in the work of the South Pacific Commission, and that of your Pacific Territory, that the question of the most appropriate form of South Pacific regional organisations has been under consideration for some time. Australia has followed the issue closely as a member of the South Pacific Commission and of the South Pacific Forum, the organisation which comprises the Heads of Government of the independent and self-governing countries of the South Pacific.

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To undertake consideration of the political, legal, constitutional, and financial implications of a Single Regional Organisation, the Forum decided to appoint a Committee of Ministers of Foreign Affairs from four

member countries. It was intended that this Committee should undertake consultations with concerned parties, including the Governments of France, the United States and the United Kingdom, to inform them of the Forum's views and to ascertain their views on participation in a single Regional Organisation. In my current capacity as Chairman of the Forum, I was requested to convey to your Government the Forum's decision and the wish of the Committee of Ministers of Foreign Affairs to undertake consultations with your Government.

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Yours sincerely,

(R.J.L. Hawke)

Ends:

You may also wish to know that Mr Hawke has written in similar terms to the Heads of Government of France and the United States.

The original copy of this letter will be sent on as soon as it is received.

Yours sincerely

Parsons

A.R. PARSONS

The Rt Hon. Margaret Thatcher, M.P.
Prime Minister of Great Britain
LONDON SW1



THE HIGH COMMISSIONER

AUSTRALIAN HIGH COMMISSION

ccry
AUSTRALIA HOUSE
STRAND
LONDON WC2B 4LA
01-438 8000

17 April 1984

DMS
12/4

Dear Mr Coles,

The attached envelope contains the original letter from Mr Hawke to Mrs Thatcher on the subject of a Single Regional Organisation in the South Pacific, the text of which was conveyed in a letter from the High Commissioner on 10 April 1984.

Yours sincerely,

(Patricia Paton)

Mr A.J. Coles
Private Secretary to the
Prime Minister
10 Downing Street
LONDON SW1



ECL

10 DOWNING STREET

From the Private Secretary

11 April 1984

SOUTH PACIFIC REGIONAL ORGANISATIONS

I enclose a copy of a letter which the Prime Minister has received from the Prime Minister of Australia. I shall be grateful for advice and a draft reply.

BF

J. COLES

Peter Ricketts Esq
Foreign and Commonwealth Office

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10 DOWNING STREET

From the Private Secretary

11 April 1984

The Prime Minister has asked me to thank you for your letter of 10 April containing the text of a message to Mrs Thatcher from the Prime Minister of Australia.

A. J. COLES

His Excellency Mr A R Parsons

VB